

SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

EDITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS—COMPILED WEEKLY BY THE EVENING TELEGRAPH.

THE GRAIN TRADE.

From the N. Y. Tribune. Chicago is an enterprising, go-ahead city, which has had a rapid growth, and naturally indulges in high-reaching anticipations.

Of late, the fact that a good deal of Western grain is passing down the Mississippi on its way, via St. Louis and New Orleans, to the East and to Europe, has arrested the attention of her publicists.

One of the schemes under consideration proposes a magnificent canal—or rather river—whereby the water of the lakes shall be made to flow southward through the Straits of Mackinac and the heart of Chicago into the Illinois, and so into the lower Ohio and Mississippi, at a cost of only \$84,000,000, or some such trifle.

A far more hopeful project is that of enlarging and deepening still further our Erie Canal, and thus diminishing the cost of reaching the seaboard via Buffalo and Albany.

Finally, the recent Convention of Boards of Trade at Chicago adopted the report of its committee, concluding as follows: "Thirdly, Your committee asks your consideration of the project of organizing, during the ensuing season, for the purpose of pressing upon Congress the necessity of aiding the State of New York in the Erie and Oswego canals to the people of the United States for the transportation of produce free of toll; and to hasten the building of the Niagara Ship Canal by the General Government."

OUR RELATIONS WITH ENGLAND. From the N. Y. Herald. The Alabama claims question appears to be assuming an importance which it should have assumed long since.

RECONSTRUCTION TO BE RECONSTRUCTED. From the N. Y. World. "Reconstruction" has reversed its engine, and is "taking the back track" in Virginia, with the sanction of the Federal authority.

THE ADMINISTRATION AND COUNTRY. From the Chicago Republican. It is useless to conceal a fact which has become patent to all, and that is that the administration has disappointed, not only the country generally, but its immediate party friends.

The Chicago Tribune, which, after vainly striving for weeks to justify nominations forced upon the President by its own immediate friends and supporters, now lifts up into the very wind of its former teachings, until every rag of canvas in that unstable craft flutters abroad from the breeze, and threatens to fly in shreds from the bolt-ropes.

The passage by Congress of the bill authorizing the President to submit the new constitutions to the popular vote in parts, is a sneaking retreat by that body from its policy of disfranchising the leading citizens of the South. It is a compromise, a retreat, for the Republican party could not stand under the edifice of keeping half the population of the South unrepresented for an indefinite period, and the same majority in the unrepresented States that voted down reconstruction last year would suffice to block it perpetually.

It is evident that the men composing the President's Cabinet are ill-suited to their positions. None of them take hold of the great questions appertaining to their departments in a manner that indicates grasp of mind and judgment in execution.

THE WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENTS, to whom the whole world owes so much, are putting the various great statesmen with whom they have "interviews," and whose "conversations" they report, under special obligations of gratitude.

just here: if the "interview" so reported is a fortunate one, and the statesman's "ideas" are received favorably by the public, all is well; on the other hand, if they prove to be unwise or unpopular, the statesman has only to disown the report, and announce that he was "misunderstood" or "misrepresented."

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